



Approved For Release 2002/05/17 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000200020024-9

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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EXDIS

SUBJ: SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE: THAILAND HEARINGS

REFS: A. BANGKOK 5333

B. BANGKOK 5400

1. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITH SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DURING RECENT WEEKS, NUMEROUS UNRESOLVED ISSUES REMAINED. THEREFORE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN MET WITH SENATOR SYMINGTON MAY 16 TO RESOLVE THEM. SENATOR REITERATED HIS SUSPICIONS THAT NEW DELETIONS, WHICH WE REQUESTED ON BASIS OF REFTELS, WERE CONNECTED WITH RECENT EVENTS IN CAMBODIA. AFTER ASSURING HIM THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, GREEN WENT THROUGH OUR LIST OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES ITEM BY ITEM, EXPLAINING OUR REASONS FOR THE CHANGES. ON MANY OF THEM THE SENATOR AND THE STAFF ACCEPTED OUR ARGUMENTS; ON OTHERS THEY REMAINED OPPOSED TO DELETIONS FROM THE VERSION TO BE PUBLISHED.

2. DELETIONS AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES MADE ARE LISTED BELOW. PAGE REFERENCE TO SECOND GALLEY APPEARS FIRST AS THAT WAS VERSION WE WORKED ON; PAGE REFERENCE TO FIRST GALLEY APPEARS IN PARENTHESES.

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3. VBT-11 (LLG-11) WE DELETED "AND ASKED THAT NO PUBLIC ATTENTION BE ATTRACTED TO THE NEW DEPLOYMENT".

4. VBT-12 (LLG-12) WE DELETED THE NAMES OF TWO RADAR SITES, I.E., "BAN PRATANADEE (NE OF UDORN) AND KHAD PHANOM RUNG (SW OF UBON)." LOCATIONS OF OTHER RADAR SITES WILL APPEAR IN THE PUBLIC RECORD BECAUSE THEY ARE UNCLASSIFIED AND APPEAR IN THE "ENROUTE SUPPLEMENT" PUBLISHED FOR AIR CREWS BY DOD. CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT EACH SITE ALSO APPEARS IN THAT PUBLICATION.

5. VBT-19 (LLG-19) THE SENTENCE RE TOP LEADERSHIP OF CPT WAS REVISED TO READ "MANY OF THE TOP LEADERS...".

6. VBT-20 (LLG-20) ON THE "INSURGENT SITUATION". IN SECOND PARA WE DELETED "THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND ACTUAL CREATION OF SMALL "LIBERATED AREAS" WOULD HAVE STRONG PSYCHOLOGICAL REPERCUSSIONS IF THE CT'S WERE ABLE TO CARRY THIS OUT". IN THE FINAL PARA WE DELETED FROM THE WORD "HOWEVER" THROUGH THE END OF THE PARA.

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8. VBT-42 (LLG-40) ACM DAWEE'S NAME IS DELETED, BUT AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE SENATOR IT WILL BE DESCRIBED AS THE AGREEMENT "BETWEEN AMBASSADOR UNGER AND A REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED BY PRIME MINISTER THANOM." DATES WERE CORRECTED.

9. VBT-43 (LLG-41) WE DELETED THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER, BUT THE SENATOR INSISTED THAT OUR UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY MORE FULLY REFLECT ITS CONTENT. THEREFORE, THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE FIRST PARA OF THE SUMMARY WAS REVISED. IT NOW READS: "IT AGREED TO FULLY EQUIP AND PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR FORCES GOING TO VIET NAM; PAY OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES; ASSUME COSTS OF PREPARING AND TRAINING--INCLUDING LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL FORCES FOR VIET NAM; PAY MUSTERING-OUT ALLOWANCE AND REPRESENTATION FUNDS FOR UNITS".

10. VBT-47 (LLG-45) TO SENATOR SYMINGTON'S ASSERTION THAT

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HIS STAFF WAS TOLD THAT THAI EXPENSES IN KOREA WERE PAID BY THE US. AMBASSADOR UNGER'S REPLY WOULD NOW BE "I BELIEVE WE PAY CERTAIN LOGISTICS COSTS BUT NOT PAY AND ALLOWANCES".

11. VBT-65 (LLG-63) SUBTITLE AT TOP OF PAGE IS DELETED.

12. VBT-66 (LLG-64) ON THE BASIS THAT THE SURROUNDING PAGES WOULD CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE SUBJECT WAS LAOS, WE SUCCEEDED IN DELETING REFERENCES TO PAYING AND TO TROOPS. WE DEEMED THESE DELETIONS SUFFICIENT.

13. VBT-94 (LLG-92) SUB TITLE "EXERCISE TAMARAN" IS DELETED.

14. VBT-128 (RAN-27) AS YOU SUGGESTED, WE DELETED FROM "AND WHICH IS" ON FIFTH LINE FROM BOTTOM OF VBT-128 THROUGH FIRST LINE ON VBT-129.

15. VBT-129 (RAN-28) ADDITION MADE AS YOU SUGGESTED IN REF B, PARA 2D.

16. VBT-138 (RAN-37) FOR THE PHRASE "APPROVED BY THE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE" WE HAVE SUBSTITUTED "IN LAOS".

17. VBT-143 (RAN-42) THE LESSER CHANGES YOU SUGGESTED IN REF B, PARA 2G WERE MADE.

18. RAN-62 (RAN-63) "DEATH BENEFITS FOR THAI KILLED" WAS DELETED FROM BOTH SUBTITLE AND THE SENATOR'S QUESTION.

19. RAN-65 (RAN-66) AS SUBCOMMITTEE INSISTED ON RETAINING "AESTHETIC" IN PAUL'S COMMENTS, WE ADDED TO GEN SEITH'S ANSWER "BUT I AM SURE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN AESTHETIC REASONS".

20. RAN-74 (RAN-74) THE SECTION ON THAI CI SHORTCOMINGS IS DELETED EXCEPT FOR THE SUBTITLE AND PAUL'S FIRST QUESTION.

21. RAN-84 (RAN-84) SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S INSERT REMAINS IN THE RECORD. STAFF ASSERTS IT WAS GIVEN TO THEM AT EMBASSY BANGKOK; IN ANY CASE, IT IS ACCURATE REFLECTION OF MATERIAL IN MACTHAI JI FACT BOOK ON RTARF. OUR INSERT ON RTARF PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE, WHICH PUTS THE

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SUBJECT INTO FULLER CONTEXT BY LISTING THAI COSTS ALSO, WILL ALSO APPEAR IN THE RECORD IN SLIGHTLY AMENDED FORM.

22. RAN-85 (RAN-85) INSERT ON "MILITARY WORKING ARRANGEMENT" HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN GALLEYS, WE CONSIDER IT A CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT.

23. MMG-30 (MMG-30) IN SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION AND ANSWER ON DCAA AUDIT OF ETO, REFERENCES TO BOTH DCAA AND AUDIT HAVE BEEN DELETED.

24. THE SENATOR WAS INSISTENT ON PUBLISHING THE LAST SENTENCE ON PAGE VBT-96 (LLG-94) REGARDING THE THAI EXPECTATIONS ON AIR DEFENSE. WE THINK THAT BOTH THE EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON MUST BE AGREED THAT IN THE EVENT THE RTG SEEKS TO CLARIFY WHAT YOU MEANT, THE USG WOULD RESPOND THAT THE USG HAS NO DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THAILAND GOING BEYOND OUR SEATO COMMITMENT AND THAT NOTHING YOU SAID WAS MEANT TO IMPLY ANY FURTHER DEFENSE COMMITMENT.
ROGERS

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